LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5: (canceled).

6 (new): A ceramic plate material for the side dams of a twin-drum strip caster, the ceramic plate material

consisting essentially of, in terms of mass%, BN of not less than 5% to not more than 20%, AlN of more than 15% to not more than 40% and Si_3N_4 of not less than 40% to not more than 80%,

containing Al of 9 mass% or more in terms of Al equivalent, and

having the properties of: bending strength at room temperature of not less than 120 MPa, bending strength at 1,000°C of not less than 65 MPa, hardness (Hv) of 50 to 350, fracture toughness K_{IC} at 1,000°C of not less than 1 $MPa \cdot m^{1/2}$, thermal conductivity at a temperature from room temperature to 1,000°C of not more than 8 W/(m·K), thermal shock resistance index R' of not less than 800 W/m, and wettability with molten steel (contact angle θ) of not less than 120°.

7 (new): A ceramic plate material for the side dams of a twin-drum strip caster according to claim 6, characterized by containing, in terms of mass%, BN of not less than 10% to less than 20%.

8 (new): A ceramic plate material for the side dams of a twin-drum strip caster according to claim 6, characterized by further containing, in terms of mass%, one or more of: Al_2O_3 of not less than 1% to not more than 15%, MgO of not less than 1% to not more than 15%, ZrO_2 of not less than

1% to not more than 30% and Y_2O_3 of not less than 1% to not more than 15%.

9 (new): A ceramic plate material for the side dams of a twin-drum strip caster according to claim 7, characterized by further containing, in terms of mass%, one or more of: Al_2O_3 of not less than 1% to not more than 15%, MgO of not less than 1% to not more than 15%, ZrO_2 of not less than 1% to not more than 30% and Y_2O_3 of not less than 1% to not more than 15%.